

Democratic Party. George's dedication to service and his commitment to family and to fatherhood is a shining example of the life we should all aspire to.

His daughter, Vanessa Eichler, said of him "He was the perfect father. Everyone knows him for what he did for labor and the Democratic Party, but he taught us to enjoy life." I believe that through his actions George taught us all a little bit about life and the need to help one another.

George Eichler's involvement in the labor movement saw its beginnings in 1949, when George went to work as a bottle washer at the Pearl Brewery in San Antonio, Texas. Soon after beginning his work there, George joined the International Association of Brewery Workers, and quickly moved up the union leadership ranks to become the Associate Business Agent in 1960. In 1967, the International Association of Brewery Workers joined the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, and George continued his leadership efforts, holding various local, State, and national level positions within the Teamsters organization throughout his career.

It was through his work as a labor leader that George also became well-known for his charitable contributions, selflessly dedicating his time and service to charitable organizations like Goodwill Industries and the United Way. From 1965 through 1974, George continued his commitment to service as Chair of the San Antonio AFL-CIO Council Pines Housing Trust, a program whose outstanding efforts in housing the handicapped was recognized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. These local elderly and handicapped independent living programs are recognized as precursors to national handicapped housing initiatives.

George's work over the years also benefited the local Democratic Party and countless Democratic candidates, as he campaigned tirelessly during each campaign year. He also served as Democratic Precinct Chair, and as such attended many State and National Democratic Conventions.

I am proud to count myself among those who have had the opportunity to know and learn from George Eichler. I know his family will receive some comfort in the knowledge that George's memory will endure among all those he touched throughout his life.

#### HONORING BERINGER VINEYARDS ON ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 21, 2001*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 125th anniversary of Beringer Vineyards, located in St. Helena, Napa Valley, California.

Beringer Vineyards was founded in 1876, when Jacob Beringer and his brother, Frederick purchased a twenty-eight acre vineyard for \$14,500. One hundred and twenty-five years later, the winery is worth in excess of \$1.5 billion and is the oldest continuously operating winery in Napa Valley.

Beringer was not only a pioneer in the California wine industry, it is also a significant factor in the Napa Valley's emergence as one of

the world's premier wine-growing regions. Today, Beringer Vineyards continues its extraordinary tradition of viticulture innovation and winemaking expertise to consistently produce the highest quality wines.

Mr. Speaker, Beringer Vineyards not only produces outstanding wines, but its generosity in the community is unsurpassed. Beringer supports numerous important charities, including civic organizations and youth groups throughout Napa Valley and the State of California. This year, the majority of its donations are being made to Napa Valley Health Charities, which provides critically needed health care services to low-income persons.

To commemorate this important occasion, Winemaker Ed Sbragia, who is celebrating his 25th year as Winemaker at Beringer, has produced a very special 1997 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon from the original "Home Vineyard." As evidence of Beringer's continued tradition of excellence, Mr. Sbragia is the world's only winemaker to have both a red and a white wine named as Wine Spectator magazine's "1 Wine of the Year."

Mr. Speaker, Beringer was where I worked as a young man and I am particularly proud of this tremendous organization. At this time, it is appropriate that we honor and congratulate Beringer Vineyards for its many successes and contributions to our Napa Valley community for the past 125 years.

#### RECOGNIZING HEAR O' ISRAEL INTERNATIONAL INC.

#### HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 21, 2001*

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, in light of the tragedy that struck our nation September 11, 2001, I believe it's fitting to recognize a valued organization within the Houston community, Hear O' Israel International Inc., which is currently sponsoring its National Mercy, Love and Compassion Month. This month long event is being conducted in conjunction with their ongoing campaign, "Listen to the Cries of the Children." Hear O' Israel works to make a difference in the lives of the physically challenged, the elderly, neglected children, and battered women across Houston. They work to give these men and women a stronger sense of self-worth and instill in them the need to treat others with compassion and respect. National Mercy, Love and Compassion Month has been endorsed by Houston Mayor Lee Brown and every member of the City Council, which further demonstrates the high regard for Hear O' Israel in our community.

Hear O' Israel International Inc., a non-profit, non-denominational organization works to increase public awareness of those that are less fortunate. "Listen to the Cries of the Children" is designed to strengthen unity amongst families and further public awareness of the negative consequences that drug abuse, family violence, child abuse, and gang activity have on children.

National Mercy, Love and Compassion Month is a campaign to call attention to the plight of children who do not have access to adequate food, shelter, clothing, and health care. As a symbol of compassion for suffering children, Hear O' Israel International Inc., en-

courages supporters to adopt a family or an individual in need as a gesture of support in resounding the alarm for those who have been forgotten and many times rejected by our communities.

Again, I would like to recognize Hear O' Israel International Inc., for its efforts to improve and enhance the quality of life for our children, and extend my personal best wishes for a successful and rewarding campaign.

#### TRIBUTE TO REVEREND BOOKER T. SEARS, JR., D.D.

#### HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 21, 2001*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Reverend Booker T. Sears, a remarkable spiritual counselor and community leader, on his 16th anniversary as Pastor of Goodwill Baptist Church in the Bronx, New York.

Reverend Sears was born and raised in Columbia, South Carolina, as the eldest of four children born to the late Dr. and Mrs. Booker T. Sears Sr. Nurtured by a large family, Reverend Sears went on to pursue higher education in his hometown. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion and Philosophy from Benedict College and his Doctorate of Divinity degree from the Columbia Bible Institute. Reverend Sears spent 23 years pasturing congregations in South Carolina before bringing his gifts and compassion to the South Bronx.

Mr. Speaker, since his arrival to New York's religious community 16 years ago, Reverend Sears has left an undeniable mark. He is the Second Vice President of the Baptist Ministers Conference of Greater New York and Vicinity, an active member of the United Missionary Baptist Association, the Empire Missionary Baptist Convention, the National Baptist Convention U.S.A., Inc., the Ministers Prayer Alliance, along with a number of other esteemed religious organizations and community organizations.

The man I am honoring today has been an example of leadership for his congregation and many community members. Worshipers at Goodwill Baptist Church describe Reverend Sears as not only their religious guide, but as their friend, confidant, and teacher.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Reverend Booker T. Sears Jr., D.D. for his 16 years of dedicated service to the Goodwill Baptist Church congregation and South Bronx community.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO NEWARK BETH ISRAEL ON ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF SERVICE

#### HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 21, 2001*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to Beth Israel Medical Center in Newark, New Jersey as staff and supporters celebrate 100 years of service to our community. Newark